



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Cambridge Arts Council
presents the
32nd Cambridge River Festival
FREE festival of music, dance, theater, poetry, visual arts & more!
June 4, 2011, 12:00 Noon – 6:00 p.m. (rain or shine)
along the Charles River (Memorial Dr. between JFK St. & Western Ave.)

Cambridge, MA – The 32nd **Annual Cambridge River Festival** creates a splash on Saturday, June 4, 2011, 12:00 Noon - 6:00pm (rain or shine) with a FREE, one-day celebration of the arts on a mile-long stretch along the banks of the Charles River (Memorial Drive between JFK Street and Western Avenue). Attracting over 200,000 enthusiastic festival-goers annually, the Cambridge River Festival has become a much-anticipated celebration of the Cambridge arts scene. Produced by the Cambridge Arts Council (CAC), the city's official arts agency.

The **Cambridge River Festival** features multiple stages of live local and national jazz, folk and roots music, dance, poetry and theater performances by Cambridge artists, music venues, arts and cultural organizations including TOAD and the Lizard Lounge, The Jazz Club at the Multicultural Arts Center, Central Square Theater, José Mateo Ballet Theatre, Actors' Shakespeare Project, American Repertory Theater, Behind the Mask Theater, Beyond the 4th Wall, Cambridge Poet Populist Jean-Dany Joachim, Company One, ImprovBoston, New England Folk Music Archives, StoryStream Cambridge, The Theater Offensive and much, much more! (For a full list of performances, see the schedule below.) Entertainment also includes interactive, family, art-making activities, performances, workshops and demonstrations. While taking in the sights and sounds, browse through a market of unique arts & crafts, and enjoy a grand assortment of specialty foods and traditional festival fare.

Information: www.cambridgeartscouncil.org or 617-349-4380.

DOWNLOAD PHOTOS:

Cambridge River Festival performers: <http://www2.cambridgema.gov/gallery/?AlbumID=437>

Cambridge River Festival photos: <http://www2.cambridgema.gov/gallery/?albumID=416>

CEREMONY & PARADE TO KICK-OFF THE FESTIVAL BEGINS IN HARVARD SQUARE'S WINTHROP PARK
Saturday, June 4, 2011 at 11:00am; Parade to the Charles River begins at 11:20am

Meet in Winthrop Park to celebrate the opening of the 2011 Cambridge River Festival with Revels singers, musicians and puppeteers. Join in singing a few great songs, including "Down by the Riverside," accompanied by the irresistible groove of New Orleans Honk band, Second Line Social Aid & Pleasure Society Brass Band. After this opening ceremony, follow the giant puppet of local legend Brother Blue, created by Behind the Mask Theater, along with a majestic burst of puppet butterflies down to the riverside. Everyone is invited to participate in the parade. Bring a drum or a kazoo! If you think you can't carry a tune, carry a puppet!

CAMBRIDGE RIVER FESTIVAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2011, 12 NOON – 6PM

CONNECT: FOLK & ROOTS STAGE

Weeks Footbridge at DeWolfe Street (Riverside)

Coordinators: TOAD and The Lizard Lounge

Host: Tim Bianchi, Cambridge-based Musician

Tom Bianchi (Host)

Tom Bianchi, host of The Lizard Lounge Open Mic Challenge and the Sunday Night Back Room Music Series at The Burren, has been performing, entertaining and hosting shows for 13 years in the Boston area. Whether performing solo, with his full band, "The Baker Thomas Band" or hosting a night of music, Tom always brings fun and good times to every show.

Schedule:

12:00 Noon - Margaret Glaspy

1:00pm - Dietrich Strause

2:00pm - Darlingside

3:00pm - Sarah Borges

4:00pm - Ryan Fitzsimmons Band

5:00pm - Fandango

Margaret Glaspy

Born and raised in rural Northern California, Margaret Glaspy, singer/songwriter came to Boston a few years ago on a grant from the National Foundation for the Advancement of Arts, and plays regularly at Club Passim and the Lizard Lounge. Her credits also include performances at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and New York City's Ziegfeld Theatre. She counts Ray Charles, Joni Mitchell, and James Taylor among the artists who have won her old soul at a young age.

Dietrich Strause

Dietrich Strause has been drawing in Boston audiences with poetic lyrics brought to life through his flowing finger-picking guitar, a mellifluously woven viola, and the pulse of a roots heartbeat. His band features some of the Boston area's finest musicians, Billy Beard (Session Americana), Jim Larkin (Jesse Dee), and Laurence Scudder (The Ryan Montbleau Band).

Darlingside

Darlingside is a string rock quintet, based in Northampton, Mass., that features lush five-part harmonies, classical cello-violin duets and compelling break-beats. The band keeps audiences on their toes with their exuberant stage presence, spontaneous *a cappella*, frequent instrument switches, mind-boggling covers and a widely eclectic, cross-genre blend of original material.

Sarah Borges

Known to many nationwide due to relentless touring with her fiery rockin' band, The Broken Singles, Sarah has drawn praise throughout the country, including accolades from the *Boston Globe* ("the playfully charismatic Borges truly shines"), *Time Out New York* ("irresistible") and the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* ("just a whole lot of fun"). The band received raves in the *New York Times* for their "vivacious" live show and Borges was awarded "Local Female Vocalist of the Year" at the 2008 Boston Music Awards.

Ryan Fitzsimmons

While still a relative newcomer to Providence, Rhode Island, Ryan Fitzsimmons was nominated for Best Folk Act for 2004, and in 2007, he was awarded "Best Male Vocalist" in the Providence Phoenix Best Music Poll. He has performed at the Newport Folk Festival, Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, and many other venues throughout New England, including Cambridge's TOAD and The Lizard Lounge. He is currently finishing his second CD with David "Goody" Goodrich (Chris Smither and Peter Mulvey).

Fandango

Fandango is as much a spiritual renewal as it is a reinterpretation of some of the best soul, blues, gospel, and Americana music ever written. At their weekly Wednesday night residency at TOAD, Fandango frontman Fred Griffeth leads this congregation into soul and R&B righteousness! Fandango also includes Steve Cuoco on bass, Chris Anzalone on drums, Cliff Spencer on organ with Bob Enik and Kevin Belz sharing guitar duties.

CREATE: JAZZ & GOSPEL STAGE

Weld Boathouse at JFK Street (Riverside)

Coordinator: The Jazz Club at the Multicultural Arts Center

Host: Eric Jackson of 89.7 WGBH and Shelley Neill of Multicultural Arts Center

Schedule:

12:00 NOON – ÑAWI

1:30 pm - The Makanda Project

3:00 pm - The New World Jazz Composers Octet

4:30 pm - Kendrick Oliver's New Life Jazz Ensemble Featuring Vocalist Nicole Nelson

ÑAWI

A doorway into the rich and diverse musical cultural traditions of Ecuador, ÑAWI blends modern elements with a deeply rooted folkloric foundation. Utilizing a wide range of traditional instruments from Ecuador and South America, as well as mandolin, violin, piano, electronic keyboards and electric bass, the group performs both instrumental and sung pieces.

Makanda Project

The Makanda Project celebrates Makanda Ken McIntyre, a brilliant multi-instrumentalist, composer, and educator. In a distinguished career that spanned from the late 1950s until his sudden passing in 2001, he became very highly regarded within the jazz world for his own recordings and compositions as well as his contributions to recordings by Eric Dolphy and Cecil Taylor among others. Band members include Kurtis Rivers and Arni Cheatham, alto saxophone; Lance Bryant and Sean Berry, tenor saxophone and flute; Charlie Kohlhasse, baritone saxophone; Jerry Sabatini, trumpet, flugelhorn; Josiah Woodson, trumpet and flute; Robert Stringer, trombone; Bill Lowe, bass trombone and tuba; John Kordalewski, piano; John Lockwood, bass, and Yoron Israel, drums.

New World Jazz Composers Octet

Daniel Ian Smith's octet is dedicated to the performance of new music. Having given their first performances under the guise of the "Sanctuary Composers Forum" in tandem with the "Jazz in the Sanctuary" concert series which featured jazz and improvised music, the group garnered considerable attention, and word spread that this world-class ensemble was truly one of a kind. The ensemble quickly adapts to and personalizes the compositions that are written expressly for it. They will present music from their latest recording project, *Transitions*.

Kendrick Oliver's New Life Jazz Ensemble

Inspired by Big Band greats, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Dizzie Gillespie, this New England-based group combines Basie-style swing, *foot-stompin'*, *head-bobbin'* arrangements with high-powered rhythms, an unrestrained brass section, elegant vocals and a talented assortment of spectacular soloists to produce its infectious sound. Rooted in Gospel music, this outstanding Jazz Ensemble will have you dancing along and shouting out for more from the first song to the last note.

INSPIRE: THEATER STAGE

Memorial Drive between JFK Street and Plympton Street (Harvard University Side)

Coordinator: Central Square Theater

Host: Maggie Moore Abdow, Education Director, Underground Railway Theater

Schedule:

12:00 Noon - Central Square Theater, excerpts and songs from *Silver Spoon*

12:30pm - Actors' Shakespeare Project, scenes from Shakespeare & Stage Combat Workshop

1:00pm - American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.), *The Donkey Show* and interactive workshop of *The Bus Stop*

1:30pm - Company One excerpts from PigPen's *Mountain Song*

2:00pm - ImprovBoston, excerpts from their Boston Family Show

2:30pm - Central Square Theater, excerpts and songs from *Silver Spoon*
3:00pm - The Theater Offensive, *OUT in Your Neighborhood*
3:30pm - Metro Stage Company, musical excerpts from 2010/2011 Seasons
4:00pm - Actors' Shakespeare Project, scenes from Shakespeare & Stage Combat Workshop
4:30pm - Company One, excerpts from *Pig Pen's Mountain Song*
5:00pm - ImprovBoston, excerpts from their main stage shows

Central Square Theater

Excerpts from The Nora Theatre Company's world premiere musical, *Silver Spoon*, delights with toe-tapping folk numbers and rousing ballads. Working-class Brooklyn and upper-crust Manhattan collide in the idealistic days of the late 1960s as two young lovers fight for justice and search for acceptance from their families, society, and each other. With book by Cambridge's own Amy Merrill and music and lyrics by popular songwriter and activist Si Kahn. Directed by The Nora Theatre Company's Associate Director Daniel Gidron.

PHOTO CALL Workshop (Ongoing 12:00-6:00pm): A huge hit of the 2010 Cambridge River Festival, this workshop, led by CST's resident companies, Underground Railway Theater and The Nora Theatre Company, is back by popular demand. Try on costumes, learn how to pose on set pieces, and manipulate giant puppets.

Actors' Shakespeare Project

Actors' Shakespeare Project resident company members present scenes from the past six seasons and give a taste of what is to come in season seven! Will you meet Costard or Cordelia? Rage against The Tempest or decide All's Well that Ends Well? Ride into battle with Prince Hal in England or with Anthony in Egypt?

WORKSHOP: Join ASP's Combat Workshop, led by Resident Company Member Robert Walsh, to learn about making stage battles, between hordes of men or one-on-one, look realistic and seem dangerous!

American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.)

Performances from *The Donkey Show* and interactive workshop of *The Bus Stop*. *The Donkey Show* tells the story of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* through the great 70s anthems, including "We are Family," "I Love the Nightlife," "Car Wash," "Ring My Bell," and "Last Dance." The enchanted forest of Shakespeare's classic comedy becomes the glittered world of retro disco as the lovers escape from their real lives to experience a night of dream, abandon, and fantasy.

Company One

Company One performs songs and storytelling from the upcoming premiere of *Pig Pens' The Mountain Song*.

ImprovBoston

ImprovBoston performs excerpts from their mainstage and family shows: The ImprovBoston Mainstage is the ever-evolving show that is the cornerstone of ImprovBoston. Blending skillful storytelling, memorable music, audience participation, and joyful chaos, an elite cast of Boston's best improvisers creates a show that redefines itself with every performance – every Saturday at 8:00 & 10:00pm. ImprovBoston Family Show: Winner of the Nickelodeon Parent's Connect Award for Best Children's Theater, the ImprovBoston Family Show offers hilarity for adults and children alike every Saturday at 6:00pm.

The Theater Offensive

OUT in Your Neighborhood: Pride Tour: To celebrate four decades of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) movement, The Theater Offensive presents an original mini-musical for young and old alike about the spark that lit the flame: the 1969 Stonewall Riots. Composer/playwright Melissa Li's (2007 Jonathan Larson Award-winner) raucous, original show tours Boston area neighborhoods during June (LGBT Pride Month). In the spirit of Stonewall, The Theater Offensive's *OUT in Your Neighborhood: Pride Tour* brings profoundly engaging art into the streets, where people can enjoy free public performances of OUT theater on their own turf, without tickets and other trappings of traditional theater. Celebrate the magic of a community bursting out of the closets and onto the streets!

Metro Stage Company

Metro Stage Company cast members perform excerpts of Broadway favorites from Metro Stage past seasons.

ENGAGE: INTERACTIVE DANCE STAGE

Memorial Drive across from Flagg Street (Riverside)

Coordinator: José Mateo Ballet Theatre & Dance for World Community

Host: Alice Hunter, Cambridge-based choreographer and instructor

Schedule:

12:00 Noon - José Mateo Ballet Theatre YouthWorks

12:30pm - Global Water Dances

1:00pm - Annawan Weeden

2:00pm - Salsa y Control

3:00pm - Boston Bhangra

4:00pm - OrigiNation Cultural Arts Center

5:00pm - Benkadi Drum and Dance

José Mateo Ballet Theatre YouthWorks

YouthWorks is a unique performing group of talented JMBT's Young Dancers Program students, selected by audition that presents public performances. The goal of YouthWorks is to bring ballet to diverse audiences and provide pre-professional students with extensive performance experience. Comprised of students ages 14 to 18, YouthWorks presents original works created by choreographer, José Mateo at venues and festivals throughout Massachusetts.

Global Water Dances

Join a wave of dance that will encircle the earth to bring awareness to local and global water issues. Learn a movement sequence created by dancers around the world inspired by water. Get a sneak peek of local choreographers' pieces created for the Global Water Dance to be performed on the Weeks Footbridge between Cambridge and Boston on June 25, 2011 at 5:00pm. We invite you to be a dance catalyst in the name of our precious resource: water.

Annawan Weeden

Annawon Weeden, an accomplished dancer, singer and performer, demonstrates dance styles from the powwow genre of intertribal Native American dance. His performance also includes social dancing with audience participation. Time will be allotted for questions & answers. Annawon provides education as well as entertainment. Take part in the celebration of Native American culture!

Salsa y Control

Take part in salsa lessons and a high-energy performance! Learn the basic fundamentals of salsa dancing – just enough to get you out on the dance floor. Suitable for all ages and a guaranteed good time!

Boston Bhangra

Boston Bhangra is a non-profit organization that promotes cultural awareness and mentorship of children. Bhangra is a folk dance based out of the Punjab region of India, and is also one of the fastest growing forms of dance in the world. You will see the energy and vigor of Bhangra through this performance, along with how much fun it can be!

OrigiNation Cultural Arts Center

OrigiNation's NIA Dance Troupe, Girlz of IMANI, Aleye Boyz Troupe and IMANI Jr. present an interactive, energetic performance consisting of jazz, hip hop and African dances. Learn some of OrigiNation's best dance moves during the performance.

Benkadi

Benkadi, meaning "Coming Together Sweetly" in the Bamanankan language of Mali, is a vibrant African dance company directed by Sory Diabate, a professional drummer from Bamako, Mali. Benkadi performs and teaches dances, songs and rhythms from Mali and Guinea, West Africa. Experience the explosive energy and infectious spirit of Benkadi's drummers and dancers.

FAMILY & CHILDREN STAGE

Memorial Drive between JFK Street and Plympton Street (Harvard University Side)

Coordinator: Cambridge Arts Council

Schedule:

12:00 Noon - Jungle Jim, *One World, Many Stories*

1:00pm - Beyond the 4th Wall

2:00pm - Double Vision *Pantomonium*

3:00pm - CRLS Jazz Program

4:00pm - Big Nazo

5:00pm - Pancha Thurya Drum Orchestra

Jungle Jim's *One World, Many Stories*

Have you ever heard the stories of an indigenous Australian tribe from thousands of years ago? Witnessed a Japanese samurai preparing for battle? Did you know that snakes and a fierce and terrible giant used to live in Ireland? Jim Manning presents his *One World, Many Stories* family show. Designed for all audiences, Jim shows us just how big and amazing this world can be. Using comedy, magic, improv and even balloons, Jim brings tales to life from all across the globe. This show will leave your young audience full of knowledge and excited to learn about the larger world around them.

Beyond the 4th Wall

Beyond the 4th Wall presents excerpts from this year's children's musical program season: *Seussical* and *Grease*. The teen troupe presents one of their "musical happenings" and a preview from their upcoming summer production of *Aida*.

Double Vision

In the European tradition, Double Vision Theatre Company presents *Pantomonium* – circus Illusion, theater, mime, sign language, umbrellas tricks, ladder stunts and more –embodied in a one-hour display of magical wonder and clever zaniness.

CRLS Jazz Program

Original jazz arrangements played by students from Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School. Each arrangement has an "A" section and a "bridge." Students organize the different sections in a variety of creative alignments, developing an introduction, solo order, varied instrumentation and coda for each piece. They also experiment with various tempos and rhythmic "grooves" in the tradition of stylistic and creative flexibility which is one of the hallmarks of jazz.

Big Nazo

Big Nazo is a larger-than-life-sized, audience-interactive, foam-rubber creature troupe that employs a variety of puppet, mask and wearable sculpture techniques to create mobile visual spectacle and bizarre alien configurations.

Pancha Thurya Drum Orchestra

The Pancha Thurya Drum Orchestra mainly focuses on Sri Lankan music, dance traditions and their interactions with other music genres using traditional musical instruments and performing techniques from different music traditions to produce unique sounds. Pancha Thurya transcends boundaries and bonds different traditions together.

INTERACTIVE AREAS, ART DEMONSTRATIONS & WORKSHOPS:

Cambridge Folklife

Memorial Drive at the Weeks Footbridge

Host: Folklorist Millie Rahn

Featuring the arts & crafts of industry: papermaking, printing, publishing and letter pressing demonstrations.

Demonstrators include:

Amy Lapidow, legacy boxes

Jeff Altepeter, bookbinder and decorator

Peter Hopkins of Crane Paper, the leading papermaker in the US and printers of US currency

Cambridge Public School Young Artists Showcase

Corporal Burns Park (Memorial Drive and Flagg Street)

Host: Grace Durnford

An exhibition of artwork by Cambridge Public School students! Participate in a hands-on art-making activity led by a local art teacher.

Cambridge Open Studios (COS) Artist Demonstrations & Workshops

Memorial Drive at the Weeks Footbridge

Hosts: 9 Colors Artist Group and COS Coordinator Jerrie Lyndon

The 9 Colors Artist Group (COS artists) showcase their works and give hands-on art-making demonstrations and instruction. Artists include: Mary Akitomo, Cherif Benattia, Nancy Bronson, Dianne Khan, Bonnie Sloan, and Joyce Wang

StoryStream Cambridge

Memorial Drive at the Weeks Footbridge

Come hear stories for all ages! Learn about the early days of the Washington Elms and Newtowne Court housing projects from former residents. Interactive games related to the immigrant experience. Internationally famous storyteller Judith Black presents stories for families. Teen actors and improv artists dramatize their views of life in Cambridge.

The Art of Words Poetry Tent

Memorial Drive at the Weeks Footbridge

Host: Jean-Dany Joachim, outgoing Poet Populist & Toni Bee, Cambridge's newly elected Poet Populist for 2011/2012.

Ongoing: Take part in a variety of poetry readings and activities on the theme of *Catastrophes & Redemption*.

2pm: See the passing of the "laurel" from one Poet Populist to another.

Handmade Mask Display & Interactive Butterfly-Making Workshop

Next to the INSPIRE: Theater Stage

Host: Eric Bornstein, Behind the Mask Theater

See unique hand-made, large-scale puppets and masks. Create your own butterfly puppet in honor of local storytelling legend Brother Blue.

New England Blues

Memorial Drive at the Weeks Footbridge

Hosts: The New England Folk Music Archives and The Boston Blues Society

NEFMA & BBS spotlight the ongoing cultural legacy of folk music and its connections to New England. This unique showcase features archival information, photographs, and live musical demonstrations.

Sculptural Music

An interactive exhibition of kinetic sculptures that make music, created by Viktor Lois, a mechanical genius who brings dead machinery parts back to life and bestows them with the ability to play music. All are welcome to play some of the instruments and compose music!

Roving Performances

Cady Vishniac and Blake Brasher, living statues

Big Nazo

Public Art Installations

Sidewalk Sam

Corner of Memorial Drive and JFK Street

Kendall Dudley's *Rocks Rolling Closed at the Gates of War*

River Bend Park across from Corporal Burns Park

QUICK FACTS

CAMBRIDGE ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTS THE 32nd CAMBRIDGE RIVER FESTIVAL - SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2011

WHAT:

32nd Cambridge River Festival

Celebrate the arts with this FREE festival along the banks of the Charles River, featuring:

- Hundreds of local & nationally renowned jazz, folk, blues, gospel and roots music performers on

multiple stages. Music stages coordinated by TOAD and The Lizard Lounge & The Jazz Club at the Multicultural Arts Center

- Interactive dance, theater, storytelling, poetry and performances featuring Actors' Shakespeare Project, American Repertory Theater, Behind the Mask Theater, Beyond the 4th Wall, Cambridge Poet Populist Jean-Dany Joachim, Central Square Theater, Company One, ImprovBoston, José Mateo Ballet Theatre, New England Folk Music Archives, StoryStream Cambridge, The Theater Offensive and much, much more!
- Public art installations designed for the festival
- Family entertainment & art-making activities
- Over 100 specialty food purveyors and craftspeople

WHEN: Saturday, June 4, 2011, 12:00 Noon - 6:00pm – *Rain or Shine!*

WHERE: Along a mile-long stretch of Memorial Drive between JFK St. & Western Ave.
Between Harvard Square & Central Square on Memorial Drive
Nearest MBTA station: Harvard Square on the Red Line
Wheelchair accessible

ATTENDANCE: 200,000 annually

ADMISSION: Event is FREE

PRODUCER: Cambridge Arts Council – an award-winning city arts agency founded in 1974

INFORMATION: www.cambridgeartscouncil.org or 617-349-4380

MEDIA CONTACTS:

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PHOTOS:

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Schedule subject to change.

SPONSORS (as of May 5, 2011)

Event Sponsors: Dyson, Nissan, Dunkin Donuts, Mrs. Myer's Clean Day

Media Sponsors: Boston's Weekly Dig, Magic 106.7, Panorama, WGBH, Artscope, Metro, Titan

Site Sponsors: City of Cambridge, Department of Conservation & Recreation, and Harvard University

Cambridge Arts Council – *Nurturing the Arts in Cambridge*

The Cambridge Arts Council exists to ensure that the arts remain vital for people living, working and visiting Cambridge.

www.cambridgeartscouncil.org

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